

2016-

17

# Statewide Self Advocacy Network

Annual Report

October 1, 2016- September 30, 2017



State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
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Sacramento CA 95819 916-322-8481



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## Mission Statement

*The Statewide Self Advocacy Network (SSAN) promotes leadership and builds bridges that strengthen advocacy among disability communities by focusing on policy change.*



State of California  
*Department of Developmental Services*



University Center for Excellence  
in Developmental Disabilities



ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL CENTER AGENCIES



## Message from SSAN Chair

I was proud to be elected as the SSAN chairperson. SSAN members were very busy from October 2016- September 2017.

SSAN members put the ABLE Act power point presentation and trained each other on how to give this presentation to our communities.



We had very good information at our 4 meetings. Some of the topics included:

- Affordable & Accessible Housing
- Healthcare updates
- An Employment Panel
- Disaster preparedness, Safety Awareness and Evacuation techniques
- Bullying prevention, especially cyber bullying
- Published 4 newsletters with articles written by SSAN members
- Resource Table- resources shared among members to take back to our communities statewide

SSAN members have worked really hard to accomplish the goals of the SCDD State Plan. It was an all-out effort to try and achieve this work statewide. The four work groups (Employment, Legislative, Newsletter, and Self Determination) helped build leadership skills, team work and resources for members to take back to their communities.

SSAN will continue to advance the self-advocacy movement in California.

Robert Balderama  
SSAN Chair





# 2017-2021 STATE PLAN

## Self-Advocacy Goal

**Goal 1:** Californians with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families reflecting the diversity of the state will have increased information and supports to advocate for civil and service rights to achieve self-determination, integration and inclusion in all areas of community life

### Objective 1.2

The Council will promote self-advocates in leadership roles in statewide networks a) through strengthening of a statewide self-advocacy organization and by supporting self-advocates; b) within cross-disability leadership coalitions; and c) in training other self-advocates to become leaders.

## SSAN Members (Roster) 2016-2017

- North Coast Region – Charles Adams
- North State Region – Teresa Moshier
- Sacramento Region – Lisa Cooley
- North Bay Region– Chen Curtiss
- Bay Area Region– Regina Woodliff
- North Valley Hills Region – Robert Balderama
- Central Coast Region– Cheryl Hewitt & Ramon Hernandez
- Sequoia Region– Rebecca Donabed
- Los Angeles Region– Julie Gaona
- Orange County Region– Robert Levy
- San Bernardino Region– Daniel Fouste
- San Diego Region– Paul Mansell
- Association of Regional Center Agencies – Desiree Boykin
- California Foundation of Independent Living Centers – Christina Mills
- Department of Developmental Services – Nicole Patterson
- Disability Rights California – Marinda Reed & Scott Baron
- State Council on Developmental Disabilities – David Forderer
- University Center on Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) UC Davis MIND Institute – Robert Levy
- UCEDD UCLA Tarjan Center – Kecia Weller
- UCEDD USC – Wesley Witherspoon



## **SSAN Officers**

Robert Balderama, Chair  
Julie Gaona, Vice Chair  
Cheryl Hewitt/Rebecca  
Donabed, Secretary

## **2016-2017 SSAN Meetings**

SSAN held 4 meetings between October 1, 2016 and September 30, 2017. Meetings were held on December 7-8, 2016, March 8-9, 2017, June 7-8, 2017 and September 6-7, 2017.

Each SSAN meeting included member reports on issues and concerns in their regions, legislative updates, training for members, and resources to distribute to member's communities.



From Paul Mansell - representative from San Diego Imperial Regional Office

*“SSAN has given me the opportunity to engage in dialogues with other self-advocates from throughout California with diverse life experiences to advance the cause of those in the developmental disability community. It gives me the opportunity to share my writings at a statewide level”*



## 2016-2017 SSAN Accomplishments

### What We Do

- *Develop the knowledge and skills to make a difference in our region and state.*
- *Speak up for people with disabilities.*
- *Learn about and advocate for issues important to people with disabilities.*
- *Lead regional and statewide advocacy groups and networks*

~SSAN Bylaws

### Legislative Updates 2016-2017

Members received legislative updates and information on SCDD supported Legislation and these issues:

#### LEGISLATION:

- AB 15 – Maienschein, Denti-Cal Program: Reimbursement Rates
- AB 279 – Holden, Developmental Disabilities: Regional Centers
- AB 312 – O'Donnell, Special Education and Pre-School Equalization
- AB 340 – Arambula, Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program: trauma screening
- AB 384 – Irwin, The Qualified ABLE Program: Tax-Advantaged Savings Accounts
- AB 434 – Baker, State Web Accessibility: Standard and Reports
- AB 728 – Waldon, Crimes Ineligible for Expungement: Elder Abuse
- AB 959 – Holden, Developmental Services: Regional Centers
- AB 973 – Low, Remote Accessible Vote By Mail System
- AB 1136 – Eggman, Health Facilities: Residential Mental or Substance Use Disorder Treatment
- AB 1170 – Cooley, CIE Blueprint Ombudsman
- AB 1200 – Cervantes, Aging and Disabilities Resource Connection Program: Access to Services
- AB 1372 – Levine, Crisis Stabilization Units: Psychiatric Patients



- AB 1607 – Frazier, Developmental Services: Integrated Competitive Employment
- SB 218 – Dodd, The Qualified ABLE Program: Tax-Advantaged Savings Accounts
- SB 283 – Wilk, Developmental Services: Traumatic Brain Injuries
- SB 354 – Portantino, Special Education: Individualized Education Programs: Translation Services
- SB 409 – Nguyen, Veteran's homes: Residents with Complex Mental and Behavioral Health Needs
- SB 433 – Mendoza, Data Sharing
- SB 449 – Monning, Skilled Nursing and Intermediate Care Facilities: Training Programs
- SB 707 – Cannella, Medi-Cal: Denti-Cal Advisory Group

### **Presentations and Training 2016-2017**

Members **received** presentations and training on:

- Bagley Keene
- SSAN By Laws revisions
- Office of Emergency Services
- ABLE Act
- Self-Advocacy Presentation
- Tips on How to Work with First Responders
- Public Policy from the Arc of California
- How to Fire you Attendant
- Bullying
- How to give the ABLE Act Presentation- Training & Tips
- Supported Decision Making
- Silence = Violence info and webinar
- CFILC presentation on Voice Activated Ipad program
- Oroville Emergency & People with Disabilities
- Emergency Preparedness Training
- Employment Panel
- Healthcare Letter Writing campaign
- Affordable & Accessible Housing

- Healthcare information

## **Presentations & Trainings provided and/or attended by SSAN Members**

SSAN members provided different types of presentations and trainings throughout the state as well as attended events. Presentation and training topics related to the SCDD State Plan goals & objectives were:

### **Goal 1 Self Advocacy (33 events = 3511 participants)**

- Self Determination Stakeholder Meeting (50 participants\*)
- Statewide Self Determination Meeting (100 participants)
- Autism Society of San Francisco Self Determination (20 participants)
- Self Determination Symposiums ( 200 participants\*)
- Self Determination (25 participants)
- Self Determination Presentation (50 participants)
- Los Angeles Consumer Advisory Committee ( 20 participants \*)
- Valley Mountain Regional Center Consumer Advisory Committee (15\*)
- Regional Center LAC (15 participants)
- Sacramento PAC regional meeting (85 participants)
- San Diego People First (8 participants)
- DDS CAC November Meeting (35 participants)
- Self-Advocacy Conference (20 participants)
- Talked to, emailed and phone calls to new self-advocates (394 self-advocates and 10 other)
- VMRC CAC presentation (15 participants\*)
- San Diego People First Quarterly meeting (21 participants)
- Imperial Valley People First Conference (100 participants)
- San Diego People First Meeting ( 21 participants)
- Self-Advocacy (100 participants trained)

- How to do a presentation (50 participants)
- Table at the San Diego People First Conference (300 participants)
- How to do a Meeting (20 participants)
- Self-Advocacy (10 participants)
- San Diego People First Conference ( 300 participants)
- Reaching Your Dreams (75 participants)
- 30<sup>th</sup> CHOICES Conference Stockton (500 participants\*)
- Statewide Self Advocacy Conference Panel- Bullying (35 participants)
- Paradise People First Chapter (18 participants)
- Arc Solano Arc Program (40 participants)
- Regional Center “Westside Jam Self Advocacy Conference” (500 participants\*)
- IPPs (40 SA Trained)
- DDS CAC meeting “Supported Decision Making” (30 participant)
- Volunteer Advocacy Services (1 participant)

### **Goal 2 Employment (9 events =1,161 participants)**

- “I got hired” webinar ( 300 participants\*)
- Jobtoberfest booth ( 100+ participants\*)
- Employment First (60 participants\*)
- Employment for Adults with Autism (20 participants)
- California Employment Consortium for Youth Webinar (580 participants\*)
- USC UCEDD volunteer work (1 participant)
- WCIL Bottom Dollar Documentary Panel— (50 participants)
- SSAN Employment Panel (40 participants\*)
- “Bottom Dollar” APSE and Self-Advocacy Board of Los Angeles (10 participants)

### **Goal 3 Housing (3 events= 40 participants)**

- Press Conference on Housing (10 participants\*)
- CA Department of Mental Health Affordable Housing for People with disabilities (5 people)

- Affordable Housing from Lanterman Housing Alliance (25 participants)

#### **Goal 4 Health & Safety (27 events= 722 participants)**

- Butte County fire presentation (20 participants)
- Stanford Patient Advisory Group-Lanterman Act (8 participants)
- Stanford (4 participants)
- Community Health Center (8 participants)
- San Jose Human Services Commission ( 2 participants)
- San Jose Human Rights Commission ( 2 participants)
- “Healthy Visalia” booth ( 50 participants\*)
- Youth Healthcare Transition Summit (12 participants)
- Health Advocacy Summit ( 25 participants\*)
- Orville Dam Stories ( 3 participants)
- San Jose Fire Department about people with disabilities ( 10 participants\*)
- San Jose Highway Patrol about people with disabilities ( 10 participants\*)
- Safety-net Stakeholder Meeting in Napa, Fresno, and Orange County (150 participants\*)
- UCLA Tarjan Center Lecture Series “Insights from Self-Advocates about Research and Interventions for People with Developmental Disabilities” (50 participants\*)
- Attendant Care Presentation SAAC (20 participants\*)
- California Department of Insurance ( 1 participant)
- CIT Law Enforcement training ( 40 participants\*)
- Crime Prevention (140 SA Trained)
- Emergency Preparedness (60 SA Trained)
- How to take Medications (15)
- “What Medicaid Means to Me” (22 Participants)
- Public Transportation Meeting (1 Participant)
- “Transportation: Keys to a Better Life” SCDD LA Office and Westside Regional Center Consumer Advisory Committee (10 participants)

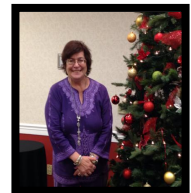
- Transportation Presentation (10 participants)
- Health & Wellness Fair (10 participants)
- DDS CAC meeting (24 participants\*)
- Placer County People First meeting (15 participants\*)

### **Goal 5 Education (6 events = 293 participants)**

- Willow Glenn School District Board (20 participants\*)
- Warm Line Transition Fair ( 160 participants\*)
- Disability Awareness booth at community college ( 100 participants\*)
- San Jose Library Staff ( 5 participants\*)
- Meeting with Assemblyman Ash Karla (3 participants\*)
- Meeting with Congressman Ro Khana (3 participants\*)

**Regina Woodliff- representative from the Bay Area Regional Office**

*"I have been a member of SSAN since 2012 and I have seen SSAN grow so very much in those five years! SSAN is a cross disability training network and my personal passion is reaching out to the youth in the community. I want SSAN to have youth members from different disability related groups!"*



### **Goal 6 Formal & Informal Community Supports (53 events= 2153 participants)**

- Access Transit (40 participants)
- Access CAC meetings (10 participants\*)
- SCDD Los Angeles RAC (10 participants\*)
- ABLE Act Presentation ( 6 presentations 120 participants)
- Voter Education (72 participants)
- Voter Summit (100 participants)
- Home and Community Based Service Regulations Meeting ( 50 participants\*)
- QA Advisory committee (1 participant)

- Legislature visit ( 2 participants)
- Walked the 35<sup>th</sup> District ( 2 participants)
- Supported Life Conference (200+ participants\*)
- Disparity Taskforce (1 participant)
- Central Coast RAC ( 7 participants)
- San Andreas Regional Center ( 20 participants\*)
- Valley Mountain Regional Center Board meeting ( 16 participants\*)
- Special Olympics (1 participant)
- Voting Forum (1 participant)
- Consumers Rock the Vote (10 participants)
- Westside Center for Independent Living/ USC-UCEED (20 Participants)
- Silicon Valley Center for Independent Living Coalition Event ( 1 participant)
- Community Living Center Los Angeles (1 participant)
- North Bay RAC (10 participants\*)
- CalABLE Board Meeting ( 1 participant)
- Adult System Improvement Committee ( 1 participant)
- Fresno Disability Advocacy Team ( 5 participants)
- 2 Part Training “Models of Disabilities” ( 10 participants)
- Tarjan Center strategic planning process (40 participants)
- Meeting with Assemblyman Ash Karla ( 2 participants)
- Train rides transportation (16 participants)
- Sacramento Regional Advisory Committee meeting ( 15 participants\*)
- Supported Decision Making ( 40 participants)
- TedTalk “Dangers of Public Transportation: the perspective of a person with a disability” (400 participants\*)
- Down Syndrome Conference ( 500 participants\*)
- Requesting Reasonable Accommodations ( 1 participant)
- ARCA Event ( 1 participant)
- HCBS Trainings (80 participants\*)
- County Transportation committee meetings (1 participant)
- Disparity meetings ( 16 participants)

- SPCA Committee at San Andreas Regional Center ( 1 participant)
- SARC Regional Center Legislative Luncheon ( 1 participant)
- San Bernardino Community Needs Forum (15 participants)
- Legislative Advocacy (20 participants)
- Home and Community Based Services Committee Meeting (30 participants)
- Sonoma Developmental Center Choices Project orientation (160 participants\*)
- North State RAC (14 participants\*)
- Encouraging Social Success (85 SA participants trained)
- Disparity Committee Meetings (2 participants)
- Speech Contest (1 participant)

*Participants are Self-Advocates unless noted by a \*, in that case the participants were a mixture of self-advocates, family advocates and other. In the reporting going forward- these counts will be collected.*

*Total= 131 events = 7,880 participants*

From Lisa Cooley-representative from Sacramento Regional Office



*“Supporting the Self Determination Program in California will give all Californians with developmental disabilities the opportunity to have self-directed lives without limits!”*

### **Barriers to Outreach**

Being located far away from the regional office  
 Work (3)  
 Facilitation (3)  
 Health issues  
 Uneducated Regional Center Staff

Time (3)  
 Transportation limitations (5)  
 Finances  
 Issues with Paratransit  
 Lack of interest



Lack of advocates  
Knowledge of People with Disabilities  
Lack of clarity on SSAN responsibilities  
Accessibility

Lack of tools  
Group Homes  
Bureaucracy

**During 2016-2017, SSAN worked on these organizational and operating issues:**

- Developed 4 SSAN newsletters
- Revised and approved SSAN bylaws
- Finalized and implemented Memo of Understanding (MOU) with SCDD
- Formalized the Application Process for SSAN Members

Each member is on at least one or more of the following workgroups:

- Employment
- Self Determination
- Newsletter
- Legislation

There were a total of 73 workgroup meetings

- Employment met 9 times
- Self Determination met 9 times
- Newsletter met 9 times
- Legislation met 6 times
- Officers met 40 times

Additionally, the SSAN Chair produced 4 weekly summaries that kept members updated on current events and the work in progress

## Resource Sharing

SSAN members distributed information about these resources to their communities:



### Advocacy

UCLA Program for the Education and Enrichment of Relational Skills

Exceptional Minds

Strategies to Empower People (Step)

Family Resource Centers Network

Disability Organizing Network

Youth Organizing Disabled Proud

Regional Advisory Committees

Local People First chapters



### Bullying

Department of Developmental Services

Silence = Violence Network



## Education

Chaffey College, Rancho Cucamonga, CA

San Jose State University, San Jose, CA

Mission College, Santa Clara, CA

South Bay Points of Transition, San Diego, CA

Danza College, Cupertino, CA

Butte College

Libraries

American River College, Sacramento, CA

Los Rio Community College District

Disabled Student Programs and Activities

Sacramento State

Sacramento City College

Consumes River College

Sierra College

Folsom River College

Santa Monica College Center for Disabled Students

Chabad at Santa Monica College

SMC Computer Programing Club



## Employment

Work Training Center

Employment and Volunteer focused day program

Gone for Good

California Department of Rehabilitation

California Employment Development Department

Access 2 Independence



## Health

American Red Cross

JFS Chaverim

Foothill Community Medical and Dental Services

California Department of Mental Health

San Jose Parks and Rec, San Jose, CA

Disability Policy Seminar Income Maintenance Health Insurance Chart

Current Financing v. Block grants & per capita caps



## Housing

South Bay Community Services

Subsidize Housing

Regional Centers

Housing NOW

Lanterman Housing Coalition

Department of Developmental Services

Resources for Independent Living Apartment Database

Home Ownership of Westside

Harbor Regional Center

Ability First Accessible Housing

Choices

Alta Regional Center

California Foundation for Independent Living Centers

Independent Living Centers

San Andreas Regional Center

Santa Monica Housing Authority

H.O.M.E. at Westside Regional Center

Housing Authority of Culver City

San Diego Department of Housing & Community Development

County Housing Authorities

Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP)

Housing and Urban Development



Disability Rights California



**Rights**

**Safety**

Access Transit

Project Second Chance

The ARC of Salano

Independent Living Centers

North Bay Regional Center

National Board of Repertory Care

South Central Los Angeles Regional Center

Adult Protective Services/Child Protected Services

Abuse and Neglect Training

How to Interact with Law Enforcement

Santa Clara Community Office of Emergency Preparedness

City of San Jose

Los Angeles County of Emergency Management

City of Los Angeles Department of Disability-Emergency Preparedness for  
People with Disabilities Manual – July 2016

Ready LA

City of Torrance – Disaster Readiness for People with Developmental or  
Cognitive Disabilities – National Organization on Disability Publication

Feeling Safe Being Safe DDS CAC Publication

DDS Emergency Preparedness Web Training

Sacramento County Emergency Services

“Stay Informed During an Emergency”

“Make an Emergency Kit”

“Emergency Preparedness Checklist”

Prepare Now

Salvation Army Kroc Center

Fire Departments

LA County Emergency Services Program



## **Self-Determination Informational Resources**

DDS Home and Community-Based Services Final Rule



## Information

California LifeLine

Voice Options

Digital Access Project

How to Find out Who your Local Legislators Are

Call Connection





## SSAN Members –Statewide Network 2015-2016

### North Coast Office- Region 1

Charles Adams



### North State Office- Region 2

Teresa Moshier

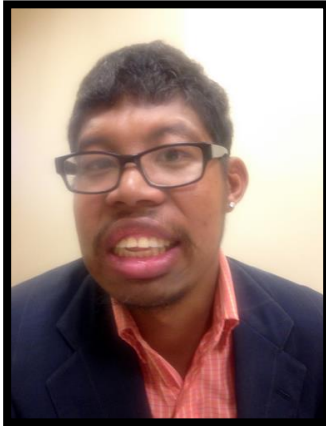


### Sacramento Office- Region 3

Lisa Cooley



**North Bay Office- Region 4**  
**Chen Curtiss**



**Bay Area Office- Region 5**  
**Regina Woodliff**



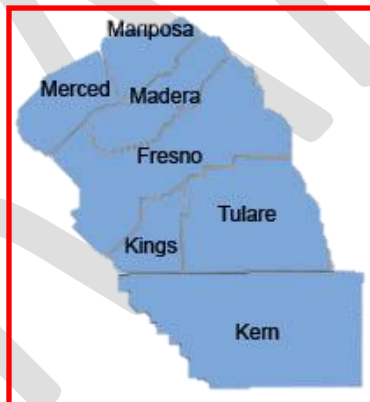
**North Valley Hills Office- Region 6**  
**Robert Balderama**



**Central Coast Office- Region 7**  
**Cheryl Hewitt**



**Sequoia Office- Region 8**  
**Rebecca Donabed**



**Central Coast Office- Region 7**  
**Ramon Hernandez**



## Los Angeles Office- Region 10

Julie Gaona



## Orange County Office- Region 11

Robert Levy



## San Bernardino Office- Region 12

Daniel Fouste





**San Diego Imperial Office- Region 13**  
**Paul Mansell**



**AGENCY PARTNERS**

**Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA CAC)**  
**Desiree Boykin**



ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL CENTER AGENCIES

## California Foundation for Independent Living Centers Christina Mills



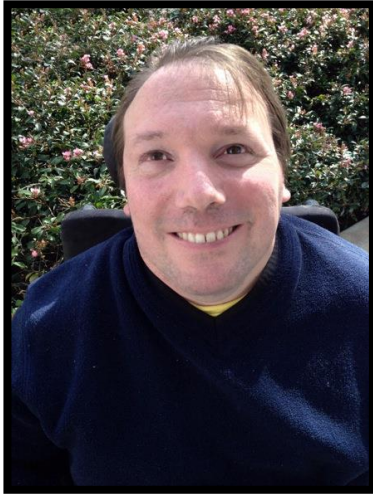
## Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Nicole Patterson



## Disability Rights California Scott Barron & Marinda Reed (Not pictured)



## State Council on Developmental Disabilities David Forderer



## UCEDD UC Davis MIND Institute Robert Levy



**UCEDD UCLA Tarjan Center  
Kecia Weller**



**UCEDD USC Children's Hospital  
Wesley Witherspoon**

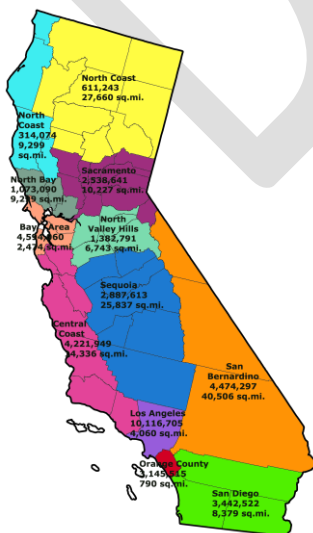




## Statewide Activity HIGHLIGHTS from SSAN Members



- Participated at Regional Advisory Committees
- Participated at SCDD Meetings in Sacramento
- Participated on the SCDD Self Advocacy Advisory Committee
- Attended the following conferences- Statewide Self Advocacy Conference in Sacramento, Supported Life Institute in Sacramento, PFCA Gathering in Sacramento, CHOICES 2017 conference in Stockton, and San Diego People First conference.
- Completed an ABLE Act power point and presented to the communities.
- Members are on their regional center boards, IHSS Public Authority, transportation boards, and People First groups.
- Wrote and sent their stories to their Legislators
- Completed 4 newsletters
- Transition Fairs and presentations made across the state



The Statewide Self Advocacy Network  
Represents ALL 58 counties in California

## WORK GROUP INFORMATION



**SSAN established the following four workgroups on in 2014:**

### **Employment Work Group Information**

**CHAIR- Rebecca Donabed**

**At the September 2017 Full SSAN meeting members updated the workgroup Purpose, Goal, and Objective.**

**Purpose:** The Employment workgroup will educate the community about the rights of people with disabilities and their ability to become contributing members of society by having competitive integrated employment.

**Goal:** To increase opportunities for people with disabilities to get meaningful and competitive integrated employment.

**Measurable Objective:** SSAN Members will reach out to at least 4 individuals/ groups in one quarter to inform them about achieving gainful employment of the Cross Disability Community.



### **Legislative Work Group Information**

**CHAIR- David Forderer**

**At the September 2017 Full SSAN Meeting the Legislative Workgroup worked on revising the Purpose, Goal and Measurable Objective.**

**Purpose:** The Legislative workgroup will inform and educate our partners and communities on statewide legislation that SCDD has taken a position.

**Goal:** Increase the community's awareness on legislation that may impact people with disabilities lives.

**Measurable Objective:** Develop materials that will increase the community's awareness and knowledge about bills that SCDD had taken a position.



## **Newsletter Work Group Information**

**CHAIR- Robert Levy (UCEDD Mind Institute)**

**At the September 2017 Full SSAN Meeting the Newsletter Workgroup worked on revising the Purpose, Goal and Measurable Objective.**

**Purpose:** The Newsletter/Communication workgroup will highlight SSAN activities and upcoming conferences/events to communicate what SSAN is doing and how they are connected in the community.

**Goal:** Increase the community's awareness of how SSAN is promoting the self-advocacy movement within the state of California.

**Measurable Objective:** The Newsletter/ Communication workgroup will produce 4 newsletters highlighting SSAN's advocacy work throughout California.



## **Self-Determination Work Group Information**

**CHAIR- Julie Gaona**

**At the September 2017 Full SSAN Meeting the Self Determination Workgroup worked on revising the Purpose, Goal and Measurable Objective.**

**Purpose:** To increase the number of people in California that know about the self-determination program.

**Goal:** To increase self-advocates and their families, and the community's awareness of self-determination.

**Measurable Objective:** SSAN members will reach out in their communities to at least 3 individual groups per quarter to inform them about the new self-determination law.

- By providing individual information about self-determination
- By providing information by Power Point to different groups
- To identify groups that may benefit from a self-determination presentation
- Develop a tool to monitor how well the information is getting out to the community





**From Desiree Boykin - representative from ARCA CAC**

*"I really enjoy learning from my fellow colleagues at SSAN. The presentations on a variety of topics like Medicare, healthcare, bullying, housing and self-determination have been really good."*



**SSAN Plans for the Future** For 2017-2018, SSAN officers identified these plans:

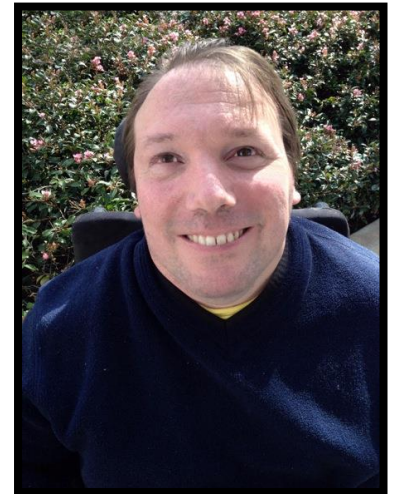
- **Communication** – Continue to produce SSAN newsletters to share information in SSAN meetings as well as with members' local communities.
- **Legislative Advocacy** – Continue receiving valuable legislative information from SCDD to SSAN.
- **Training Development** – SSAN will develop a Train the Trainer series on various topics ( Employment, Housing, Transition Aged Youth, and Self Determination) for SSAN members to go back to their communities to provide training. SSAN members can also train more trainers in their communities.
- **Networking** - Continue networking within SSAN, and network outside of SSAN with other agencies such as mental health services.

## Words from two SSAN Members...



*I am a **Kecia Weller**, representative from the Tarjan Center at UCLA, and I've been involved with SSAN since 2012. In the early years of SSAN, I remember helping SSAN create by-laws, operating procedures and set up the memo of understanding with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. The formative years of SSAN were a blast to participate in! As we grow, I want SSAN to have youth delegates at the table from different disability organizations! We need the youth to be involved in the self-advocacy movement when the older advocates die or retire!*

*My name is **David Forderer**, representative from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. SSAN has allowed me to connect with other self-advocates like myself. I find it inspiring to hear about the struggles of other advocates and what they did to resolve their issues. I also have found the group has been a great place to share my advocacy struggles and how I accomplished positive results. Some of the guest speakers SSAN has invited to our meetings have presented some very powerful and information packed lectures".*

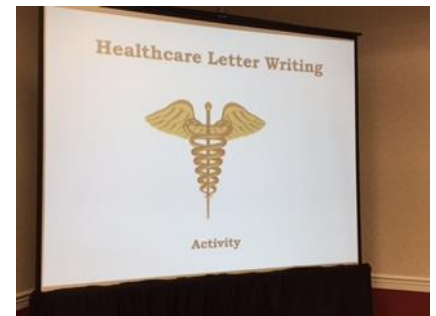




## Members in Action



## Members in Action Continued







#### SSAN's Mission

The Statewide Self Advocacy Network (SSAN) promotes leadership and builds bridges that strengthen advocacy among disability communities by focusing on policy change.

*"We have a voice! The strength of our voice needs to be heard by all individuals in California. Our job is to make their voice loud as well. As we strengthen those voices they will be empowered to speak up and express what is needed to improve their lives."*

*- Cheryl Hewitt, SSAN Chair*

#### From Cheryl Hewitt, SSAN Chair

Welcome to "Voice of SSAN," a newsletter of the Statewide Self Advocacy Network (SSAN)!

## Voices of SSAN

Newsletter of the Statewide Self-Advocacy Network  
Volume 7- December 2016

#### MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS!!!



My name is **Daniel Foust**. I've been an Inland Empire person my entire life, except for three years I spent in Eugene, Oregon, but that's neither here nor there. I have a lot of

interests, including watching movies, swimming and basically being an Internet junkie (although I am working to lessen on that). I am in SSAN because I feel this would be a good experience for me and it would be something to put on my resume. I aspire to help other people realize they can be more independent, because unlike other people with Asperger syndrome, I've never had most of the problems other Aspies faced, like I've never had too much problem learning something new or listening to others. I'm on the SSAN Self-Determination workgroup because of those reasons. One last thing you should know about me, though: I'm very opinionated.



My name is **Teresa Moshier** and I represent the SCDD North State office. The North State is a very rural area and has 9 counties in it: Siskiyou, Modoc, Trinity, Shasta, Lassen, Tehama, Plumas, Glenn and Butte. The office is located in Chico, CA  
(continued on page 4- Moshier)

1

## Meet the New SSAN Officers!



Cheryl Hewitt

Robert Balderama

Julie Gaona

At our December 2016 SSAN meeting in Sacramento, we held an election for officers. We have a new chair, vice chair and secretary who will begin their terms at the March 2017 meeting.

#### CHAIR

**Robert Balderama**

I've been a part of self-advocacy for a number of years. I believe I began my career in self-advocacy around 1991. I'm a native from Southern California. I moved to Stockton over 40 years ago. I have a 33 years old son Philip who is the love of my life. I was nominated by another SSAN member for the chair position and I accepted that nomination with great pride. I was so happy when I was elected chairperson and I am really looking

forward to working with the committee and making headway with the Self advocacy movement in California.

#### VICE CHAIR

**Julie Gaona**

I really enjoy being a part of the SSAN. I will do the best job I can do as the vice chair. I want keep learning, listening and teaching.  
(Continued on page 5)

#### SECRETARY

**Cheryl Hewitt**

As a member driven organization, I plan to be a big support to both Robert and Julie. I'm looking forward to the future of SSAN to identify other agencies we may collaborate with to create a strong Advocacy Movement in California.

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## VOICES of SSAN

Newsletter of the Statewide Self Advocacy Network



#### Inside this issue

- Meet the Officers
- Region Information
- UCLA UCEDD
- UC Davis UCEDD
- Save the Date



For more information on SSAN see [www.scds.ca.gov](http://www.scds.ca.gov) website under self-advocacy.

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## VOICES of SSAN

Statewide Self Advocacy Network

June 2017

Volume 9

#### Meet new SSAN Member Christina Mills from CFILC

Christina Mills has dedicated her career to disability rights and youth leadership. She is the Deputy Director of the California Foundation for Independent Living

eight years as a Governor appointee to the State Independent Living Council. Christina has been working in the Independent Living Movement for over 18 years.



Centers (CFILC), in Sacramento, CA. Prior to moving to northern California; Christina worked in various positions at both the San Diego and Orange County Independent Living Centers. She also served

Christina has assisted in developing a number of youth programs and projects across the country. She is a co-founder of Youth Organizing (YO!) Disabled and Proud and is a 1995 Alumna of the Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities, which is where she found her passion and drive for disability rights.  
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Newsletter of the Statewide Self Advocacy Network (SSAN)

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- Happenings Across the State
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- Apply to be on the DDS CAC



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## VOICES of SSAN

Statewide Self Advocacy Network

September 2017

Volume 10

#### Meet new SSAN Member

**Wesley Witherspoon USC UCEDD**

Wesley Witherspoon is the SSAN representative for the USC UCEDD. Wesley did not talk until he was 4 years old. He attended Special Education classes up to 11<sup>th</sup> grade. He also was involved with traditional

the year of 2001. Wesley worked with the USC UCEDD since 2006. Wesley has met thousands of self-advocates in the state of California. Wesley's responsibility at the USC UCEDD is to conduct research, education, and trainings that is important to participants who receive services at the regional center. Wesley writes out reports and papers to the USC UCEDD. Wesley goes to self-advocacy groups in the Los Angeles Area to ask about their needs so Wesley can implement possible changes to the system. Wesley was nominated for the Humanism Award for CHLA in 2013.

Wesley also attended the People First Conference,  
(Continued on page 2- WW)



classes as well when going to school. He received a high school diploma, and attended El Camino College and received an AA degree in General Studies. He graduated with a BS degree in Psychology from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Wesley started to work with people with disabilities in

Newsletter of the Statewide Self Advocacy Network (SSAN)

#### Inside this issue

- Meet new SSAN Member
- Happenings Across the State
- Employment Panel
- Informed Choice



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[www.scdd.ca.gov/self-advocacy/SSAN](http://www.scdd.ca.gov/self-advocacy/SSAN)

Please check out [www.scdd.ca.gov](http://www.scdd.ca.gov)  
Go to the Self-Advocacy tab and hit SSAN overview for more SSAN info!

